

CEMETERIES

1976

STANDISH CEMETERY

IS OLDEST IN THE COUNTRY

Standish Cemetery in Duxbury, 1697. is the oldest maintained cemetery in the U.S., according to results of research just completed by the American Cemetery Association (ACA).

Arrangements are being made for the placing of a memorial plaque at the cemetery, as a part of ACA's final Bicentennial project. Dedication ceremonies will be open to cemetarians, historians and the general public, and the actual date will be announced later.

The Date

The headstone of Myles Standish bears the date of Oct. 3, 1656. Other Pilgrim colonists interred there include John Alden, Sept. 12, 1687; and Jonathan Alden,

The Oldest

The oldest colonial burial ground in the U.S. was at St. Augustine, Fla., where some of the Spanish conquistadores rest. However, this cemetery has been lost to history, as has the original Pilgrim cemetery on Plymouth's Cole's Hill.

Thus the Duxbury burial ground is the oldest cemetery still maintained for that purpose.

The American Cemetery Association is the only cemetery group named an official Bicentennial association by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The organization has carried out several commemorative projects during 1976.